

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 877

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5635

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, NO

SUBJ: IEA LONG TERM PROGRAM - NORWAY

REF: STATE 296825

1. IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR, WHO RETURNED FROM LONDON IN LATE AFTERNOON, E/C COUNSELOR DISCUSSED NORWEGIAN RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT CHAPTER V OF IEA LONG TERM COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WITH AMBASSADOR RAVNE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY POLICY IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. AMBASSADOR WILL RAISE US CONCERNS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DEC 18 MORNING.

2. RAVNE SAID REAL ISSUE IS CLARIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN CHAPTER III(D), INCLUDING LEVEL OF MSP, INCLUSION OF PRODUCTS, DEFINITION OF IMPORTED OIL, IMPLEMENTATION BY EEC AND FRANCE, AND LACK OF DEFINITE COMMITMENT OR IMPLEMENTATION DATE IN PARA 7B OF IEA/GB(75)81 REV. 1 DOCUMENT.

3. ACCORDING RAVNE, IF ACCEPTABLE CLARIFICATION OF CHAPTER III ISSUES IS RECEIVED AT IEA/GB MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, NORWAY WILL AGREE TO TAKE LONG TERM COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
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HOME AND CONSIDER ADHERENCE TO IT POSITIVELY. HE POINTS

OUT THAT UNDER TERMS OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH IEA NORWAY DOES NOT VOTE ON IEA AGREEMENTS BUT ADHERES TO THEM AFTER THEY ARE ACCEPTED. THUS NORWAY HAS NO POWER TO PREVENT PASSAGE OF COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AND, RAVNE SAYS, WILL NOT TRY TO DO SO. HOWEVER, EVEN IF ACCEPTABLE CLARIFICATION IS RECEIVED, NORWAY NEEDS MORE TIME TO STUDY PROGRAM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS.

4. RE CHAPTER V, RAVNE SAYS NORWAY WILL NOT SEEK CHANGES IN WORDING. IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE VERY DIFFICULT TO SELL TO PARLIAMENT AND AT A MINIMUM NORWAY WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO INSERT INTO THE RECORD ITS UNDERSTANDING OF ITS CHAPTER V COMMITMENTS. EVEN WITH BEST ENDEAVORS FORMULATION, NORWAY CONSIDERS IT HAS MORAL COMMITMENT AND MUST, FOR EXAMPLE, STUDY IMPLICATIONS OF CHAPTER V FOR STATOIL ITS PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANY. THIS ALONE WILL MAKE ADHERENCE TO THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 19 IMPOSSIBLE.

5. IN SHORT, RAVNE CONSIDERS SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF CHAPTER III ISSUES IS ESSENTIAL FOR NORWEGIAN ACCEPTANCE OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF LONG TERM PROGRAM. OTHERWISE HE CONSIDERS PROGRAM AND CHAPTER V ARE WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF CONSUMER IEA MEMBERS AND AGAINST PRODUCER MEMBERS SUCH AS NORWAY. NORWEGIAN POSITION ON PROGRAM HAS BEEN AGREED UPON WITH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY, FINANCE, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
BYRNE

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